

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated February 13, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15-17, 19-21 and 23. The Examiner maintained the rejection of these claims, as made in prior Office Actions, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over combinations of certain references. The Examiner also withdrew rejections of claims 18 and 22 based on remarks presented by the Applicants in an Amendment filed on December 18, 2003. The Examiner objected to claims 18 and 22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 18 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 18 and 22 have been amended to comply with the Examiner's formal requirements. Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form and includes all the limitations of its base claim, i.e., claim 15. Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form and includes all the limitations of its base claim, i.e., claim 19. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 15 and 19 are cancelled herein.

Applicants submit that claims 16-17 and 23 are in condition for allowance. Specifically, claims 16-17 and 23 have been amended such that they are dependent from or ultimately dependent from claim 18. Since claim 18, as presented herein, is allowable, Applicants submit that claims 16-17 and 23 are allowable as being dependent from an allowable base claim.

Applicants submit that claims 20 and 21 are also in condition for allowance. Claims 20 and 21 have been amended to depend from claim 22. Because claim 22, as presented herein, is allowable, Applicants submit that claims 20 and 21 are allowable as being dependent from an allowable base claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that this response complies with the Examiner's formal requirements and places the application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 30, 2004


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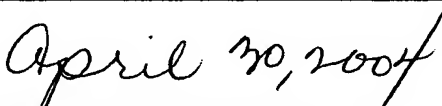
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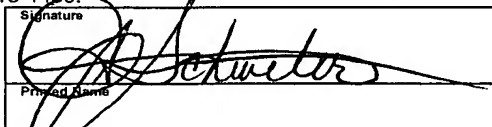
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment After Final is being

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